

for the artists' labours. To carry into effect these great national objects, all that is wanted is a little money, great space, and a good locality. The new drive in Hyde-park presents easy access to a portion of this public property, where a wall might be built up of sufficient extent to allow frescos of the size of the pictures in the Hall of Battles, at Versailles, to be executed. On each side of the wall shed-work, such as we see extensively thrown up round public buildings, might be inserted, running parallel to the pictures. Such an accommodation has been formerly afforded to J. S. Copley, R.A., to exhibit his large picture of the Siege of Gibraltar. Also, for the picture of the Battle of Waterloo; and though last not least, for the exhibition of the skeleton of the whale!

When the importance of the proposed objects, and the necessity which exists for great efforts to be made, (so that England may assert her equality in art as well as in letters and science, with France or Germany) be considered, it may be hoped that no difficulties would be presented by the Government in the way of allowing a space of national property to be temporarily covered for this purpose. But if the authorities should be deaf to the entreaties of artists, no doubt a sufficient love of art and its ameliorating influence upon society, would be found in wealthy individuals, willing to devote to this purpose a few hundreds from the millions of pounds now subscribing to railways.

This proposition appeals as forcibly to the intelligence and wealth of Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, or Bristol, as of London; for a travelling gallery of British historical art is one of the objects; and every one who feels the necessity of diffusing education through the attractive and refining medium of art, or wishes to see high art successfully cultivated in this country, is called upon to aid in the accomplishing of so important an end.

I beg to apologise for the length of my letter, and will only add, that any information will be gladly received upon the subject (a subject peculiarly deserving the support of all literary, scientific, and educational establishments; also, of corporate bodies throughout the United Kingdom), and that before long the proposal will be submitted, in a more matured form, for the consideration of the profession, and the support of all such bodies throughout the kingdom.—I remain, Sir, &c.

B.

#### THE WANT OF EFFICIENT ARTISANS.

THE manner in which our recent remarks on the condition of the operatives\* connected with building have been received, the response and sympathy elicited, have given us much satisfaction and pleasure. We have received above twenty letters on the subject from men of all classes,—thanks from operatives themselves, and expressions of a desire to aid in effecting an improvement from persons of some influence. We do not mention this in any degree boastfully, but as an evidence that the decline over which we grieved, is universally felt, and that, as a strong desire to raise the condition of the class in question exists, there are grounds for hope that something may be done in this behalf.

Great anxiety is especially manifested by several who have addressed us, to obtain cheaply, a knowledge of architectural drawing. One, who may be taken as an exponent of several, writes as follows:—

"MR. EDITOR,—I have been a reader of your valuable paper almost from its commencement, and have studied the articles it has contained from time to time with pleasure and profit; but I have never felt so much interested as when I read the remarks in your leading article of the 27th ult. Although you have selected only two trades to confirm your position, your statement will equally apply to that class of operatives to which I belong, viz., the journeymen carpenters.

I feel my position, and hundreds more, keenly feel it, and desire to be delivered from their ignorance. What are we to do? Drawing-schools are scarcely to be heard of, architectural lending-libraries there are none! I have inquired and cannot find any comprehensive work on architecture; they all treat on dis-

tinct parts of it, and are so very expensive, that they are out of reach to men of my station. Your correspondent of the 4th inst. has shewn the good resulting from his taking by the hand two or three workmen; but men thus kind are few and far between. Artisans, however, would not mind paying if they were likely to have instruction for it. Pray lend your influence, Mr. Editor, to the establishment of a school: I need scarcely assure you there would be plenty to avail themselves of its benefits, particularly the younger part of the trades. We should then be able to give the "why" and "wherefore."—I am, Mr. Editor, &c.,

A JOURNEYMAN CARPENTER.

Something more is wanted than cheap drawing-schools and architectural lending-libraries, desirable as it is that these should be provided; and we will endeavour, when opportunity serves, to express some opinions on the subject. It is feared, notwithstanding that our correspondents and others feel differently, that the desire to excel has been so depressed by circumstances, that even when opportunities to obtain instruction are offered, the operatives are not sufficiently disposed to take advantage of them.

#### IMPROVEMENT IN BRISTOL.

WE mentioned some time since several projected improvements which were occupying the attention of the inhabitants of Bristol,\* and said that a fresh spirit seemed to have been awakened in that ancient city. The proposal to establish an Athenæum for moral and intellectual improvement seems to have received considerable support. At a public meeting held a fortnight ago, Mr. Habershon, who was in the chair, stated that 2,000*l.* had been raised for the purpose, and 527 annual subscribers obtained. Dr. Budd, in moving the adoption of a report brought up by the committee said:—"In all that regarded the accumulation of wealth, England was in the advance of other countries; it was in fact one great hive of bees, but in much that related to the embellishment of the lives, and the culture of the intellects of the people, it was far behind other nations. He had just returned from a short tour in France, and in passing through Havre and Rouen—the Liverpool and Manchester of France—the first object which struck him in the former place was a splendid building which far out-topped all the others, and on the front of which was inscribed "Library, Museum, Sculpture, Painting." He was still more struck, when at mid-day, he saw crowds of all classes thronging the wide portals, and entering the building freely without fee or payment. The same was the case at Rouen, where there was a library of 4,000 volumes, a beautiful gallery of paintings and sculpture, and a museum of natural history. He did not mention these things to extol France above his own country; there was that in England which they all knew how to appreciate—the moral worth of its people, which raised them above all others—such was not the lesson those things taught him, but when he looked at such institutions abroad and recollected Bristol, the contrast was a humiliating one, and the lesson he was taught was, to make every effort that she might outstrip her neighbours, and obtain possession of a library, a museum, a gallery of paintings, and make the same provision for the intellects and the minds of her people, which so much rejoiced liberal persons travelling abroad to see there made. He was sure it was greatly to the interest of the people of this country to provide for the intellectual and moral development of the population. From that all civilization sprang. Were not all the gifts which science had bestowed the results of the exercise of the mind and the study of the closet? Were not the railways, which now covered the land and turned out such sources of unexpected wealth, the gifts of two or three men of genius? He had often lamented that in none of their splendid termini was a single niche left for a Watt, a Stephenson, a Black, or a Gay Lussac the men who had given to them the steam-engine which rushed over the face of the land, annihilating time and space.

Mr. W. D. Bushell said, that much had been done for the moral and religious education of the people, but still there was such an

amount of ignorance and sensuality on every hand, that shewed there was a vast amount of mind in the country paralysed, as it were, lost and buried, he might say, in the tomb. To raise the depressed mind by wise culture was the highest end of the social state. They must teach men to think. Thought was antecedent to action, and no man would act well until he thought well. Education was not only of insuperable value to the individual, but it went to form the whole character of the nation. Education sifted, as it were, the very gravel for gold, and held up every pebble to discover if it were the refuse of nature, or contained within it the germs of brilliancy and worth. In establishing such institutions as that now proposed, they should recollect that they were not intended to be confined to the higher classes. They should rather seek to raise up those who were below them. Let them contemplate the pages of their own history, and they would find that their greatest men had sprung, not from those who were bred in palaces and nursed in splendour, but who had been born in cottages, and reared in poverty, but whose innate worth, indomitable energy, and talent, had made them the lights and beacons of the nation. And who would say that amongst those who would hereafter imbibe knowledge in the Bristol Athenæum, there might not arise some young man, who in time to come, should guide the destinies of his native land?

The projected establishment of baths and wash-houses has not yet met with the success that it deserved; but which, we think, may partly be ascribed to the public attention not being sufficiently attracted to the subject. At a recent meeting of the committee, it was resolved to make another appeal to the public, and in the meantime to ascertain from those gentlemen who have subscribed, whether they consent that the amount of their subscriptions should be applied to the erection, or hiring, of suitable wash-houses for the poor in dense localities—the subject of public baths being suspended until more adequate funds be raised.

We have received two or three letters on the subject of the new Guildhall, which it seems does not give universal satisfaction. As, however, these communications display much personal feeling and pique, we decline inserting them, and shall give some account of the structure ourselves when completed.

#### FULHAM CHURCH.

SIR,—My attention having been directed to this interesting old structure, by your notice that the restoration of the tower was commenced, I am induced to suggest to the inhabitants of the parish, that they should forthwith complete the work they have so well begun, by restoring the body of the church to something like propriety and architectural consistency. Attached as it is to the palace of his lordship, the Bishop of London, so justly famed for the number of new churches he has been instrumental in raising, and the restoration of old buildings he has effected, the desirableness of this step must be apparent, and the difficulty of obtaining funds small.—I am, Sir, &c.,

Oxford and Cambridge Club. M. A.

IMPROVEMENTS IN SPITALFIELDS.—On Tuesday the Commissioners of Woods and Forests issued notices for the erection of the houses in the new line of street leading from the London Docks to Spitalfields Church, the entire length consisting of about 3,000 feet, being divided into 32 lots. The width of the new street will be about 54 feet. The lots severally are to be let on lease for a term of 80 years, from Christmas day, 1845. The new street, north of High-street, Whitechapel, will be called Commercial-street; that leading out of East Smithfield will be called Dock-street; and East Smithfield will be named St. George's-street. In Commercial-street a new church is in course of erection, to be denominated the Church of St. Jude, and in Dock-street a church will be built for the Sailors' Home in Wells-street. A new street is also proposed to be formed in continuation of the Commercial-road to High-street, Whitechapel.—Globe.

GLoucester COUNTY GAOL.—The new buildings at the county gaol are now nearly completed, as far as external construction is concerned.

\* See p. 457, ante.

\* See p. 399.